





upon his feet. He stooped to spring. The distracted mother could keep still no longer. She rushed up the steep ascent with the energy of despair, reckless of the danger, thinking only of her son. The rocks crumbled and slipped beneath her feet, yet she fell not. The sharp rocks cut her flesh, but she heeded it not. On, on she struggled in her agony.

The ferocious creature paused for a moment when he heard the wretched mother's approach. True to his nature, he sprang at the boy. He barely touched the crag, and fell backward as Hannah ascended the opposite side.

"Ah!" said she laughing deliciously, "the panther must try it again before he parts us, my boy; but we won't part," and sinking on her knees before him, she fondly folded him to her breast, bathing his young forehead with her tears.

Unalterable in his ferocity, and the manner of gratifying it, the panther again sprang from his former position. This time he was more successful. His fore foot struck the edge of the crag. "He will kill us, mother, he will kill us!" The animal struggled to bring his body on the mother's face. "Go away! go away!" shrieked Hannah, boarse with horror; "you shan't have my child." Closer—still closer he came, his red eyes flashing fury, and the thick panting of his breath coming in her face.

She hears the faint report of firearms from the gulph below. The panther's foot-hold falls, his sharp claws loosen from the rock, and the baffled beast rolled howling down the precipice, at the feet of Josiah Eaton.

The sun's last rays gleamed brightly on a little group at the mouth of the gorge. They were on their knees—the mother's bleeding hands over the head of her son, and the voice of prayer going to the Guardian for all His mercy in thwarting the PANTHER'S LEAP.

#### REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY.

We find in the New York Express the following abstract of this Report—and lay it before our readers:—

The Navy of the United States is composed of 11 ships of the line, 15 frigates of the first class, and 2 of the second, 18 sloops of war, 2 brigs, 4 schooners, and 4 steamers; besides 3 store ships, 3 receiving vessels, and 5 small schooners.

The squadron now in the Mediterranean consists of the Brandywine, the Fairfield, and the Preble. In the Pacific Ocean, the frigate United States, the sloop St. Louis, Yorktown, Cyane, and Dale, and the schooner Shark.

The St. Louis, Commander Forest, was ordered to cruise in the Gulf, and along the coast of California, and the services of Capt. Forest on the coast, are spoken of as highly creditable. The Shark, Lieut. Bigelow, was ordered to cruise on the coast of Upper Peru, and the Secretary says the trust reposed in Lieut. Bigelow, has been discharged in a very satisfactory manner. The sloop Yorktown was despatched in May last to the Sandwich and Friendly Islands to protect the whale fisheries, but no intelligence has been received from her. The conduct of the whole squadron has been highly satisfactory to the Department.

An increase of the squadron in the Pacific is urged, and the establishment of a naval post at some point of our territory bordering upon that ocean, and another naval depot at the Sandwich Islands.

On the coast of Brazil are stationed the frigates Potomac, sloop Concord, Marion and Decatur, and schooner Enterprise.

In the West Indies, the Macedonian, sloop Levant and Warren.

In the East Indies, frigate Constellation and sloop Boston.

The last advices from the Exploring Expedition were, Nov. 24th 1840. The squadron were at the Sandwich Islands, undergoing repairs. It is expected to return early in the summer of 1842.

A squadron of small schooners has for some time co-operated with the army in Florida, and has rendered important service.

The brig Consort, Lieut. Powell, completed a survey of the coast from the bay of Apalachicola to the mouth of the Mississippi in June last, and has since been engaged in surveying the South Shoals of Nantucket.

The brig Dolphin, Commandant Bell, and schooner Grampus, Lieut. Paine, have returned from their second cruise on the coast of Africa. The operations of these vessels have been highly valuable in protecting trade and preventing the traffic in slaves.

The brig Dolphin, Lieut. McKen, has been despatched to the coast of New Grenada, to redress the outrage committed upon American citizens.

The steamers Missouri and Mississippi are nearly ready for service, and will form part of the home squadron.

Orders have been given for the construction of three steamers of medium size, for a first class sloop, and three small vessels of war.

The balance in the Treasury to the credit of the Naval Hospital Fund, is \$217,907 53. Average annual increase of the fund since Janu. 1836, \$27,223 67; and an investment of the surplus is recommended.

Of the appropriation for suppressing the slave-trade, \$4,365 14 remains unexpended. A re-appropriation of this, and an addition of \$3000 is recommended to meet outstanding liabilities.

Under the head of "contingencies not enumerated" there remains of the appropriations of the last three years, the sum of \$9,246 76; of which \$3,246 76 will be carried to the surplus fund on the 1st of January next, if not previously applied to the proper purposes.

The operation of the Apprentices system continues highly encouraging. The number now enlisted is about 1000. An extension of the system is contemplated to give boys in the country an opportunity to join the service without the expense of a journey to the rendezvous on the seaboard.

Great difficulty is experienced in the enlistment of seamen. An extension of benevolent policy, liberal wages punctually paid, and greater security to the rights of the sailors, the Secretary thinks would secure to our ships of war a preference to the merchant service.

Experiments in gunnery and projectiles have been made, and others authorized from which beneficial results are expected. Great pains are taken to procure the best guns which can be obtained in the country.

Measures have been taken for the construction of a steamer on Lake Erie.

The measures taken to preserve the live oak and red cedar timber from depredation are not attended with the desired results, owing to insufficiency of force. A small military force, charged with that especial duty, is believed to be absolutely necessary, assisted by a steamboat with a few marines. The subject is earnestly pressed upon the early attention of Congress.

The efforts to obtain water-rotted American Hemp, have not been successful.

The Secretary considers reform necessary in every part of our naval establishment, and anxious that no time should be lost in the important work, he brings it to the notice of Congress at the earliest day. The first step, he thinks, ought to be the preparation of a full code of laws and the rules for the government and regulation of the naval service. Without this, every other measure of reform will be unavailing. A review is given of the legislation upon the matter, from which it appears that the subject has been before Congress since the year 1832, but that nothing has been accomplished.

The Report of the Board of Navy Commissioners on the subject of Rules and Regulations for the Navy, approved by Mr. Paulding, is now submitted to Congress, but Mr. Upshur says he cannot recommend them, and suggests that they be again submitted for revision. The Secretary speaks in strong terms of the evils resulting from the want of a proper naval code.

The subject next in importance, he says, is a re-organization of the Navy Department, so as to allow the Head of the Department to devote more time and attention to the great interests of the service.

An increase of the navy is strongly urged, and the Secretary enters into a forcible argument to show its necessity and importance.

The importance of steamers in the services is urged, and the policy of constructing them by private enterprise as packet ships, to be furnished to the government when required, is recommended.

The Secretary reviews, with anxious desires for its success, the recommendation made by his predecessors for higher grades of rank in the Navy, and he urges more rapid advancement in the service.

He urges the propriety of training a suitable band of officers, and the establishment of a Naval School.

A large addition to the marine corps is deemed necessary.

Reforms are suggested in the situation of professor of mathematics now employed in the service.

Larger estimates for the year are made than usual, and the Secretary gives at length the reasons upon which they are asked.

From the New Bedford Register.

#### RETRIBUTIVE JUSTICE.

"The avenging hour will at last come. It cannot be that our free nation will long endure the vulgar dominion of ignorance and profligacy. You will live to see the law re-established. These banditti will be scourged back to their caverns. The penitentiary will claim its fugitives, and the only remembrance which history will preserve of them is the energy with which you resisted and defeated them."

Such was the language of Nicholas Biddle in 1835. The patriot Jackson, with that sagacity which so strikingly marks his character, had discovered the insecurity of the United States Bank as a depository of public revenue, and removed the treasure of the nation to other hands. Satisfied of the dangerous tendency of a central moneyed power, he had vetoed the re-charter of the Bank, and the people had triumphantly sustained him in his action. The Bank party was exasperated, and in its madness the most reckless denunciation was heaped upon the head of the old hero, and those who dared to sustain the position he had assumed. Nor was this the worst. The capitol was threatened with besiegement, unless the demands of the money power were complied with, and even the personal safety of the President was assailed and endangered. All this while, the most extravagant laudations were showered upon Nicholas Biddle. In him was said to be concealed all the financial knowledge of the Union, and to him the people were pointed as a physician competent to heal the maladies of the body politic. Services of plate were presented to him, and if he visited a distant city, his entry was amid the peans and *Triumphs* of the paper money bankers. The ardent desire of the whole Whig party was to behold him at the head of the Treasury Department, and he above all others was declared to be the only man suitable for the station. Volumes would not suffice to record the denunciations which were poured upon the name of Andrew Jackson, and the unqualified panegyric lavished upon Nicholas Biddle.

A few years have passed away. Nicholas Biddle is present.

The following, too, tells some plain truths:— Gilmer and his friends have not in derision of them, but of Old Virginia's '08 Republican doctrine, been nicknamed 'Abstractionists,' and laughed at as less in number than a 'Corporal's guard.' Yes! the first salutation which met the Virginia Whigs amidst the hearty greetings of a victorious party, at the meeting of Congress after the election in November last, was, 'Ah! we are strong enough without the whigs of Virginia, and are rejoiced that she has voted against us and that we are not to be embarrassed by her peculiar opinions!' I quote the very words, and your representative heard them at the same time I did, and from the same magnificent personage. If the Republicans are abstractionists, the Nationals are surely Incurables. It was wonderful to me that

he was when he pronounced the denunciation placed at the head of this article, and now so singularly applicable to himself. He is the same man—unchanged—and as worthy of public triumph now as then.

But how triumphantly are the purposes and motives of Gen. Jackson vindicated in its result! How nobly has he stood the tempest of invective and denunciation and calumny poured upon him, by the advocates of the Bank! We have often been struck with the earnest feeling and solemnity of the concluding paragraph of his protest against the resolution of a Federal Senate, censuring him for the removal of the public deposits, but never has it appeared to breathe so noble and patriotic a spirit as now, when time has vindicated and placed beyond even the shadow of a doubt, the motives which dictated that act.

We cannot better conclude these hasty observations than by quoting the passage in question:—

"The resolution of the Senate contains an imputation upon my private character; and as it must stand forever on their journals, I cannot close this substitute for that defence which I have not been allowed to present in the ordinary form, without remarking, that I have lived in vain, if it be necessary to enter in a formal vindication of my character and purpose from such an imputation. In vain do I bear upon my person, enduring memories of that contest in which American liberty was purchased—in vain have I since periled property, fame, and life, in defence of the rights and privileges so dearly bought—in vain am I now without a personal aspiration, or the hope of individual advantage, encountering responsibilities and dangers, from which by mere inactivity in relation to a single point, I might have been exempt—if any serious doubts can be entertained as to the purity of my purpose and motives. If I had been ambitious, I should have sought an alliance with that powerful institution, which even now aspires to no divided empire. If I had been venal, I should have sold myself to its designs—had I preferred personal comfort and official ease to the performance of my arduous duty, I should cease to molest it. In the history of conquerors and usurpers, never in the fire of youth, not in the vigor of manhood, could I find an attention to lure me from the path of duty; and now, I shall scarcely find an inducement to commence their career of ambition, when gray hairs and a decaying frame, instead of inviting to toil and battle, call me to the contemplation of other worlds, where conquerors cease to be honored, and usurpers expire their crimes. The only ambition I can feel, is to acquit myself to Him to whom I must soon render an account of my stewardship, to serve my fellow men, and live respected and honored in the history of my country. No: the ambition which leads me on, is an anxious desire and a fixed determination, to return to the people unimpaired, the sacred trust they have confided to my charge—to heal the wounds of the constitution and preserve it from further violation; to persuade my countrymen, so far as I may, that it is not in a splendid government, supported by powerful monopolies and aristocratical establishments, that they will find happiness, or their liberties protection; but in a plain system, void of pomp—protecting all, and granting favors to none—dispensing its blessing like the dews of Heaven, unseen and unfeeling, save in the freshness and beauty they contribute to produce. It is such a government that the genius of our people requires—such a one only under which our states may remain for ages to come, united, prosperous, and free. If the Almighty Being who has hitherto sustained and protected me, will but vouchsafe to make my feeble powers instrumental to such a result, I shall anticipate with pleasure the place to be assigned me in the history of my country, and die contented with the belief that I have contributed, in some small degree, to increase the value and prolong the duration of American liberty."

#### MR. WISE LETTER.

A letter of Henry A. Wise, of Virginia, replying to an invitation to be present at a late public dinner given to Mr. Gilmer of Va. by some of his constituents, has just been published by the Madisonian. It is a violent philippic against the Clay Dictatorship, which he handles literally "without glove." We subjoin a few extracts from it, which will enable our readers to judge very correctly of its general tone.—Argus.

It thus describes the Dictatorship—

"A Congressional Dictatorship, bold, selfish, arbitrary, and itself truant, arrogantly assuming to preside over both the whig party and the President of its choice, constituting not a majority of that party in the two Houses, and representing, but a lean minority of the whole people of the Nation, domineering to rule the present, and overreaching in its ambition to promote a particular candidate for future power and place, has undertaken to excommunicate your representative and his friends as heretics and traitors, simply because they would not acknowledge that fidelity to the whig party was fealty to a certain President apparent and his Federal principles, and because they esteemed the country, the constitution, and the rights of conscience far more sacred than all political pretensions, and all the professions or passions of their blindly devoted partisan followers."

The following, too, tells some plain truths:—

Gilmer and his friends have not in derision of them, but of Old Virginia's '08 Republican doctrine, been nicknamed 'Abstractionists,' and laughed at as less in number than a 'Corporal's guard.' Yes! the first salutation which met the Virginia Whigs amidst the hearty greetings of a victorious party, at the meeting of Congress after the election in November last, was, 'Ah! we are strong enough without the whigs of Virginia, and are rejoiced that she has voted against us and that we are not to be embarrassed by her peculiar opinions!' I quote the very words, and your representative heard them at the same time I did, and from the same magnificent personage. If the Republicans are abstractionists, the Nationals are surely Incurables. It was wonderful to me that

they were still, notwithstanding all their severe teachings, so unphilosophical as to suppose that their creed and course could ever, in a popular Government like ours, be free from the embarrasments of Republican opinions. They may try their best to escape from them, but they can never hope to rise without a sufficiency of their leave to lighten the whole lump. The Whig party itself could never have risen without this leave, and without it must fall. I thought that the Guard around the Constitution might be less than a Corporal's in Congress, but I know well that politicians were not the people, and that it would prove a 'host of freedom' and a 'host of God' in the country. And the late elections everywhere sure enough, are the elegy of the Dictatorship! This is not the first time that the stone rejected by the builders has become the chief of the corner. It only wanted enough to raise the standard of Republican liberty for the popular masses to rally around it, and though few, the Guard were many enough to wave that banner upon the outer wall. They have been accused of mercenary motives. 'There is not one of them who has not publicly renounced the spoils, who has not proudly refrained from seeking and refused to accept office whilst in the representative service, and who has not promptly declined when it has been offered. Can the regulars of the dictatorship say as much? Count their applications on file; and oh!—how much more infinite it would be to sum up the fawning sycophancy, the crouching servility, the beggarly sacrifice of manly pride and independence of many of those who proffered their all, and all that they were, for place until it was denied; and then turned to vent the spleen of their disappointment as bitterly upon the President as they had before volunteered their curses upon his foes, and are now the most venomous among the malignant who rail and rage at him for treachery and perfidy! And these, not of the legion of locusts who came up from the land on the 4th of March; but more cadaverous and hungry and wolfish still, they are not, the lowest or the least of those who presume to speak for the great Whig party, in the language of disinterested patriots, as magnates of the land."

The following refers to Ewing's Bill, and Clay's first opposition to it:—

The Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. Ewing himself proposed a plan, which he recommended to Congress, as one which would conduct our finances and commerce, equalize exchanges, regulate the currency, and avoid all constitutional difficulties. This was the very best desideratum, if it was what he described it to be; and this was emphatically by a Whig Administration recommendation, from the proper Department, said to be acquiesced in by the President, and it was called for by both Houses of Congress. It was justly regarded as the Whig measure of the first moment, and would, as such, have been met and treated, doubtless, by the Opposition or Van Buren party. It was called Mr. Ewing's bill. It came from under his heavy hand, but it no sooner came, than it was met at the threshold of the Senate with a scowl and a sneer, and was denounced as "a rickety concern?" By whom? Benton? No. Buchanan? No. Calhoun? No. No Opposition Senator was given time to denounce it, or even to study his reason for so doing. Every man of them was saved the individual task by another and far different order of politician. It was literally scouted by one who had won the soubriquet of Great Pacificator, by acting well in times past the part of conciliation and compromise—by one who, though of late, since the election of Harrison and his decease, had seemed to forget his occupation and the foundation of his fame—who has lost his temper in council and his tone in debate—by one who has shown a new and opposite character in a majority, to any he ever before exhibited in a minority—magnificent in the latter, but dangerous in the former—by one who has caused some of his friends to change their opinion of him, by his being in a position to show the world what he would do had he the power, by one, of whom it is severe enough to add, that to make him admired and his great qualities shine, he must be ever kept down in a minority, for the moment the weights are taken off the springs of his vaulting ambition, his head flies into the clouds.

The following comment on Mr. Wise's letter is taken from the Washington Globe.

Mr. Cushing came forward at the close of the extra session, and bore his testimony against the doings of the Whigs, (his brethren,) not only in their legislation, but in their caucuses.

Mr. Cushing went beyond our editorial surmises, and gave positive proof, avowing that he had himself been driven, by the caucus drill, to support obnoxious measures, which he took occasion to condemn as soon as he put off his party trammels.

Mr. Wise opens this session with a counter manifesto to the Whig address, which called out Mr. Cushing's. He throws the latter into the shade. The Virginia philippic makes the Massachusetts exposition wear the appearance of lenity and forbearance. Both together reduce the editorials of the Globe, which the Whigs denounced for excessive vindictive party asperity, to a tameness by comparison, which we are mortified to think may argue an insensibility to the wrongs, endured by the country, which it was our duty to present to the Democracy in the strongest colors.

#### TYLER'S PLAN.

The Gazette says that "whatever else may be said of Mr. Tyler's agencies, it is plain they can do no injury" in the way of discounts. We think they can do a great deal of mischief in this very way. "I cannot require," says the Journal of Commerce, "much consideration to convince men familiar with business, that such boards or agencies as the President contemplates, would be, in the highest possible degree, to discountenance the most perfect cover for frauds which could be contrived. If a government officer now embrozzles money, it stands as an embrozzlement; but these treasurers might give to their friends and take themselves as much as they pleased, and only be blamed for having been incautious or unwise in judging of the quality of commercial bills. But not to speak of objections in detail, the plan makes the government a great broker, competing in the market for premiums with

the citizens. The funds of the nation would in this way be speedily invested in bad debts, and a state of things brought about which would certainly make us laugh at ourselves."

#### RIGHT OF SEARCH.

The Correspondence between Lord Palmerston and our Minister to Great Britain, concerning the detention of American vessels, which has just been published in the Washington papers, is too long for our columns, but we subjoin a brief analysis of its argument from the N. Y. Post.

"One of the most singular circumstances (says the Globe) connected with this engrossing question is, that although Mr. Stevenson began his demonstrations against the British attacks on the American flag as far back as the month of Nov., during which the elections brought the present Administration into power, yet he had not received at the close of his mission, from the present authorities of his Government, a word of instruction in regard to the rights which he felt it his duty to maintain. And yet it will be seen from the message, that not another foreign power was thought of during this whole period by this Administration but that of England. The public will be surprised to find that our great ally, France—that Russia—Austria—all the States of Europe are overlooked in the message; a thing without precedent in any similar state paper—and that the whole of that portion of it in which our Secretary of State always submits to the country the condition of our foreign relations, is engrossed in making suggestions, with which he hopes Great Britain will be 'satisfied.'"

From the New York Post.

The first few letters, signed by Lord Palmerston, are taken up with the explanation of special cases of detention and search, which the American Minister had previously brought to his notice. He attempts to show, that in all these cases, the vessels seized were sailing under circumstances which justify the suspicion of their being engaged in the slave trade. He does not pretend that Her Majesty's Naval officers have any right to search American merchantmen; and if, in a few instances, such searches have been made, they were done under mistaken motives of duty, against the recurrence of which orders have been given. But he does claim that merely hoisting a strip of bunting with the United States emblem upon it, does not exempt a vessel from search, when there is reason to suspect her character. Whether she have the real papers of the United States, and be navigated according to law, can only be ascertained by asking, or compelling, her to show her papers; and for that purpose the British cruisers are sent out. To deny the right of search as so explained, would give unlimited license to the trade in slaves.

The rejoinder of Mr. Stevenson, is addressed to Lord Aberdeen, the successor of Lord Palmerston. He complains that the decision of the British government does injustice to the claims of Americans, whose vessels had been detained and injured by the cruisers on the coast of Africa. He regrets, also, that a right altogether indefensible by the principles of national and moral law, had been asserted by that government. He contends that there is no difference between the right of search, which the minister disclaims, and the right to detain and board, which he defends. Indeed, the latter may be regarded as more odious and insulting, and giving place to greater injuries than the former, which is a more billigerent right not allowed to be enforced in time of peace.

Mr. Stevenson then, by a learned and pertinent citation of the authorities, attempts to show that the power of visitation and detention cannot be rightfully exercised in these cases, according to the laws and usages of nations. The slave-trade, though condemned as a piracy by particular nations, is not contrary to the general law of nations, and its interdiction cannot, therefore, by the ordinary right of visitation, &c. &c. No nation would submit to a power conferring upon another the option to determine upon what conditions it should navigate the ocean in a time of profound peace. What tribunal is to declare the degree and kind of suspicion to be attached to a vessel, to justify the boarding and detaining her? Would it not make every subordinate commander of a British cruiser the judge of important rights? What security would there be for American merchantmen, prosecuting their lawful voyages.

Lord Aberdeen answers by construing the authorities cited by his correspondent. He then states that the British government sincerely desires to respect American vessels, but that it cannot be determined, without resorting to visitation, &c. what vessels are really American; Mr. S., himself, admitting that the slave ships of all nations take advantage of the United States flag. The acknowledged fact of the abuse creates the right of enquiry. He again renounces all pretensions on the part of the British government to visit and search American vessels in time of peace. Nor is it as American that such vessels are visited. But it has been the invariable practice of the British navy, and as Lord Aberdeen believes, of all navies in the world, to ascertain by visit the real nationality of merchant vessels met with on the high seas, if there be good reasons to apprehend their illegal character. In certain attitudes, and for a particular object, the vessels referred to are visited, not as American, but either as British vessels engaged in an unlawful traffic, and carrying the flag of the United States for a criminal purpose, or as belonging to States which have by treaty conceded to Great Britain the right of search, and which right it is attempted to defeat by fraudulently bearing the protecting flag of the Union; or, finally, they are visited as piratical outliers, possessing no claim to any flag or nationality whatever. Besides, to admit Mr. Stevenson's doctrine would be virtually to extend a protection to a most abominable traffic.

Mr. Stevenson then replies, *verbaliter*, to all the points raised by the British Secretary, reasserting his old positions, and protesting earnestly against the unwarranted assumption of Great Britain. But our limits compel us to close the analysis. The discussion is marked with great ability on



and, June 21, 1840.

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